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500.40686X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Ikuo HIYAMA et al.

Serial No.: 09/961,176

Filed: September 24, 2001

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Group: 2673

Examiner: C. DeWitte

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RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 22, 2003

Sir:

The following is in response to the December 4, 2003 Office Action in which the Examiner alleges that restriction under 35 USC §121 is required and requested Applicants to elect one of the alleged inventions.

In response to the restriction requirement Applicants hereby elect without traverse Group III, claims 1-16 for further prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, an Office Action examining claims 1-16 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to

U.S. Application No. 09/604,246

the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No.  
01-2135 (40686X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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